

***Congressman***  
***J. Randy Forbes***  
***Fourth District of Virginia***



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Forbes announces over \$10 million in funding for Chesapeake***  
***House passes Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for 2004***

**Washington, D.C.** – Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04) announced that the City of Chesapeake would receive **\$10.494 million** in federal funding for three projects as part of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for 2004: **the Great Bridge Bridge, Deep Creek Bridge, and the Great Dismal Swamp Canal.**

"Funding for these three projects is wonderful news for Chesapeake and for the entire Fourth District of Virginia, especially during the tough times we are in as a nation and amidst tight budgetary constraints across the Commonwealth," Forbes said.

Funding in the amount of **\$9.7 million** would be appropriated to continue construction of Chesapeake's **Great Bridge Bridge** and approach roadways. The Army Corps of Engineers is replacing the current two-lane bridge with a five-lane, bascule-type bridge that can accommodate the increased traffic on this structure. Furthermore, the plans call for a faster lift mechanism that will reduce both vehicular and maritime congestion. Upon completion of the bridge, the City will assume operation of the bridge from the federal government.

**Deep Creek Bridge** passes over the Dismal Swamp Canal at U.S. Route 17 Business. A vital connector within the City of Chesapeake, the bridge is in need of replacement. Funding in the amount of **\$694,000** would be appropriated for the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the design of a replacement bridge to help ease the significant traffic congestion on U.S. Route 17 Business between North Carolina and Southern Chesapeake.

Last year the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed a resolution authorizing the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a reconnaissance study of the Great Dismal Swamp Canal. The Army Corps considers this project an important priority as the remnants of Hurricane Floyd caused significant flooding in the City of Chesapeake and the surrounding region. The Army Corps would receive **\$100,000** to complete the reconnaissance study and initiate a feasibility study of the **Great Dismal Swamp Canal.**

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"We are elated that these projects will advance one step closer", stated Chesapeake Mayor, William E. Ward. "The City is so pleased with the progress on the Great Bridge Bridge. Mobility in the Great Bridge area will be greatly enhanced upon its completion and we look forward to an equal improvement in the future for the Deep Creek Bridge". Congressman Forbes is to be commended, once again, for his efforts in furthering major transportation projects in Chesapeake".

Mark Mansfield, Chief of Planning & Policy for the Army Corps of Engineers, commented, "From a watershed perspective, these water resources initiatives serve to balance both economic development and environmental sustainability, both prerequisites to Corps of Engineers participation."

Forbes: "Whether by car or by ship, the Great Bridge Bridge and the Deep Creek Bridge serve as major links within the city's transportation system. Funding for these projects would ultimately enable both bridges to operate to their fullest capacities, serving residents and those who travel through Chesapeake."

"In addition, funding for the Great Dismal Swamp Canal will enable the Army Corps of Engineers to determine the best way to strengthen the canal to prevent future flooding," Forbes continued.

On behalf of the City of Chesapeake, Forbes requested funding for these projects from the House Appropriations Committee. Today, the House of Representatives passed the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for 2004. The bill will now be reviewed by a conference of members within the House and Senate to determine its final provisions.

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